

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00326 190958Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 PM-03
NSC-06 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 MCT-01 SP-02 /041 W
-----191045 111415 /13

R 190808Z FEB 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4193
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0326

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IZ
SUBJECT: ANTI-REGIME LEAFLET DESCRIBES NAJAF INCIDENT

REF: BAGHDAD 0311

1. SUMMARY: DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE PROVIDED USINTOFF
WITH COPY OF ANTI-REGIME LEAFLET WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED
FROM AN IRAQI FRIEND. LEAFLET IS TYPEWRITTEN IN
ARABIC AND CLAIMS TO BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC
PATRIOTIRZ JABHA AL-WATANIYYA AL-
ISLAMIYYA FIL-IRAQ). THE LEAFLET IS HEADED WITH THE
TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC INVOCATION QUOTE IN THE NAME OF
GOD THE MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE UNQUOTE AND SHOWS
GENERALLY PIOUS PHRASING. IT CLAIMS THAT INCIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00326 190958Z

INVOLVING MARCHERS FROM NAJAF TO KERBALA WAS ON
A LARGE SCALE, INCLUDED MILITARY SYMPATHISERS
AND WAS SUPPRESSED ONLY AFTER THE USE OF OVER-
WHELMING ARMED FORCE ON THE PART OF BAATHI
AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS, MINUS ISLAMIC DATES:

2. QUOTE ON FEBRUARY 5, 1977, OUR FAITHFUL MASSES ORGANIZED HUGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN REVERED NAJAF IN DEFIANCE OF THE INIQUITOUS BAATHI AUTHORITIES AND IN CONDEMNATION OF THE CRIME OF EXECUTING THREE PATRIOTIC LEADERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1977 IN THE ABU GHRAIB DETENTION CAMP AT BAGHDAD. THE DEMONSTRATIONS BURST FORTH FROM THE MOSQUE OF IMAM ALI WHERE FAITHFUL MASSES FROM ALL PARTS OF IRAQ HAD GATHERED. THE ANGRY THRONG, NUMBERING MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND, THEN PROCEEDED TO MARCH ON FOOT TOWARD THE REVERED CITY OF KERBALA, SEVENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS AWAY.

3. WHEN THE PROCESSION REACHED THE VILLAGE OF AL-HAYDARIYYA ABOUT MIDWAY ON THE ROUTE ON FEBRUARY 6, IT WAS CONFRONTED BY A DETACHMENT OF THE IRAQI ARMY WHICH HAD MOVED INTO POSITION FROM HIDDIYYA DAM CAMP. BUT THE HONORABLE SOLDIERS REFUSED TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF THEIR COMMANDERS WHO ASKED THEM TO FIRE ON THE MASSES. INSTEAD, THEY JOINED THE DEMONSTRATORS AND ANNOUNCED THEIR REBELLION AGAINST THE EVIL AUTHORITIES. THE AUTHORITIES (THE PARTY POLICE) THEN SUMMONED AS REINFORCEMENTS A MOBILE CONVOY OF TANKS FROM WHERE THEY HAD BEEN STATIONED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KERBALA.

4. AT MIDDAY THE TANKS OF THE BAATH CLASHED WITH VANGUARDS OF THE PROCESSION, WHO HAD THE SUPPORT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00326 190958Z

FREE SOLDIERS WHO HAD JOINED THE MARCHERS' RANKS. SCORES DIED, AND HUNDREDS FELL WOUNDED. FULL CASUALTY FIGURES ARE NOT YET KNOWN. THE TANKS OF THE BAATH THEN BROKE INTO THE MOSQUE OF HUSSEIN IN KERBALA, EXPELLED THE FAITHFUL MASSES AND LOCKED THE DOORS OF THE MOSQUE, ALL AS A PRECAUTION TO KEEP OTHER GROUPS FROM JOINING THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESSION.

5. THE ISLAMIC PATRIOTIC FRONT CONDEMNS THE LOATHESOME BAATHI CRIME AND PROMISES GOD AND THE PEOPLE (AL-UMMA) TO CONTINUE IN THE HOLY WAR AGAINST BAATHY TYRANNY IN IRAQ. THE FRONT CALLS ON MUSLIMS TO COURAGEOUSLY OPPOSE THE DICTATORIAL REGIME WHICH RULES OUR DEAR REGION. EVERLASTING LIFE TO OUR INNOCENT MARTYRS* VICTORY TO THE REVOLUTION OF THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE* END QUOTE

6. DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE REPORTED THAT HIS

FRIEND CLAIMED THAT NINE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY POLICE HAD BEEN KILLED. HIS FRIEND PORTRAYED ORIGIN OF MARCH AS STUBBORN INSISTENCE BY SHIA ZEALOTS THAT THEY WOULD FULFILL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS OF AUTHORITIES THAT RELIGIOUS PROCESSION SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.

7. COMMENT: IF CLAIMS OF LEAFLET ARE TRUE TO ANY SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE, IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS A FAR BIGGER PROBLEM WITH SHIA POPULATION THAN AUTHORITIES WILL ADMIT EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY TO US VIA OUR USUAL SOURCE WITH CLOSE LINKS TO IRAQI INTELLIGENCE. THE VERY FACT THAT SUCH A LEAFLET IS BEING CIRCULATED IS A SIGNIFICANT SECURITY LAPSE IN A COUNTRY WHERE OWNERSHIP OF TYPEWRITERS IS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED, AND OVERT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BAGHDA 00326 190958Z

REPRODUCTION FACILITIES ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

8. USINT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT DEPARTMENT OF INFO ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE REGARDING ISLAMIC PATRIOTIC FRONT.
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA00326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0063
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770225/aaaaavrc.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd60f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 BAGHDAD 311
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3275588
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-REGIME LEAFLET DESCRIBES NAJAF INCIDENT
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IZ, ISLAMIC PATRIOTIC FRONT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd60f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009